

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00
SY-05 FAA-00 WRDE-00 MCT-01 /090 W
-----049877 220658Z /15

R 210658Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9238
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7772

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, TU
SUBJECT: LUFTHANSA HIJACKING

REF: ANKARA 7628

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON FRG EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY
EMBOFF TOOK THE OCCASION TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE
LUFTHANSA HIJACKING. ACCORDING TO GERMAN EMBOFF HIS
GOVERNMENT REQUESTED THAT ITALIAN POLICE DISABLE THE
LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT AT ROME AIRPORT BY SHOOTING OUT ITS
TIRES. ITALIAN REFUSAL TO TAKE THIS ACTION LEFT MOOT THE
QUESTION OF REQUESTING GOI AUTHORIZATION TO USE THE
READIED GERMAN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT ON ITALIAN SOIL. WHEN THE
LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT SUBSEQUENTLY ARRIVED IN CYPRUS, THE
ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT IMMEDIATELY EMBARKED FOR NICOSIA.
HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN EMBOFF, "THEY ARRIVED
TOO LATE" AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED BY THE GOC TO
DEPART. THE ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT'S AIRCRAFT THEN MOVED
TO ANKARA'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ESENBOGA) TO AWAIT
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DEVELOPMENTTS. MEANWHILE IN EUROPE, NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT
OF THE UNIT'S AIRCRAFT BEGAN TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS.
THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, FEARING THAT THE TERRORISTS WOULD
BECOME AWARE OF THIS THREAT TO THEIR OPERATION, DECIDED
TO RETURN THE ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT TO COLOGNE AND TO
PUBLICLY DISEMBARK ITS PERSONNEL. SIMULTAENOUSLY A SECOND
AIRCRAFT CARRYING ANOTHER ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT ON BOARD

DEPARTED GERMANY, REFUELED IN CRETE AND PROCEEDED
DIRECTLY TO MOGADISCIO WHERE IT COMPLETED THE SUCCESSFUL
LIBERATION OF THE HOSTAGES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION THE GERMAN FIRST
SECRETARY STATED THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD NOT EXPLORED WITH
THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THE POSSIBILITY OF GOT AUTHORIZATION
FOR THE ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT TO OPERATE IN TURKEY IF THE
HIJACKED AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED TO TURKISH SOIL. HE
ALSO STATED THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSY DID NOT COORDINATE
WITH THE GOT WITH RESPECT TO TURKISH POLICY ON THE
PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS IN PRISON IN
ISTANBUL. THE FRC, HOWEVER, WAS "DELIGHTED"
WITH THE STATEMENT (REFTEL) INDICATING GOT UNWILLINGNESS
TO RELEASE THEIR PRISONERS. A SOFT LINE, THE GERMAN
EMBOFF SAID, WOULD HAVE PLACED AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON
HIS GOVERNMENT.
SPIERS

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